

GAHANNA PARKS AND RECREATION
200 South Hamilton Road Gahanna, Ohio 43230
Phone- 342-4250 Fax- 342-4354

2005 Softball Rules
3-2 count and Texas League Shoot-out

Section 1, INDIVIDUAL/TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

- a. No team shall be permitted to play unless the roster has been completed and the league fee paid prior to the established deadlines.
- b. The Department must be informed of any roster changes 24 hours prior to scheduled games (Our office is closed on Saturdays). The changes must be in writing. You may fax in your changes to the department at 342-4354, or via e-mail to the Adult League Supervisor. No changes may be made over the phone. Players may be added at any time during the course of the season; however, the department must be informed of the change 24 hours before the individual is going to participate.
- c. Maximum number of players on a roster is limited to 20 individuals.
- d. Players can be a member of only one team in a Gahanna Parks and Recreation softball league.
- e. All players must be at least 18 years of age and be out of high school.
- f. Misinformation to the Department regarding the eligibility of a player(s) will result in that player's suspension from the league, a forfeit of all previous games in which the player participated, and exclusion from tournament play for the team involved.
- g. **Players must play in 50% of the regular season games in order to be eligible for tournament games.**
- h. Players must be listed on the team roster in order to be eligible to play. This includes substitutes.
- i. All players must sign a code of conduct prior to their first game.

Section 2, PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES:

- a. To play a game, you must have a minimum of 9 (maximum of 10) players on the field and at least 50% of the players must be female. If playing with 9 players you may have 5 males and 4 females. A team may play with more than 50% female. Example-8 females and 2 males
- b. Teams must have at least four (4) females to start a game.
- c. Teams will bat all players as listed on the scorecard in order. Females **do not** have to bat first.
- d. The batting order will alternate. In the case of uneven amounts of males to females, batters will rotate so that alternation will take place. If there is a shortage of females (only 4), the ninth or tenth spot on the roster will be an automatic out. In the case of a team with less than 4 males a female will follow another at the plate.
- e. All persons must play both offense and defense.
- f. Unlimited substitutes are allowed.
- g. At least two females must be stationed in the infield, not including pitcher and catcher. If playing with 4 females you only need one of them stationed in the infield.

- h. Three outfielders are not permitted to position themselves inside the 30' perimeter outside the bases prior to a hit (This is usually the edge of the grass). Infraction of this rule results in an illegal pitch. Strictly Umpires Judgment!

Section 3, THE GAME:

- a. One fielder cannot blatantly take a play away from another. This refers to ground balls, fly balls, and plays made at the bases. The umpire will use his discretion for this call. The batter or runner will be awarded the base or will be called safe if this type of interference is called.
- b. The pitch count will be 3 balls and 2 strikes instead of the regular 4 balls and 3 strikes. After a batter has two strikes, one foul is allowed. The batter is called out after the second foul.
- c. Any game will be declared regulation by the umpire if either team is ahead by 10 runs after five innings or if the losing team has batted 5 times.
- d. No new innings shall begin after one hour has elapsed from the scheduled start time or the time you get started after the last game has ended. All games are considered complete after the one-hour time limit has elapsed.
- e. Forfeit time is five minutes after the scheduled time or immediately after the previous game if this exceeds five minutes. If a game is late you must be ready to start as soon as it is over. If you have only 9 players at your scheduled start time (at least 4 female) then you must start the game and add other players as they arrive.
- f. TO KEEP LEAGUE GAMES ON SCHEDULE, THERE IS NO INFIELD WARM UP OR BATTING PRACTICE. It is your team's responsibility to be ready to play at your scheduled start time. If your game is late in getting started this time will not be made up.
- g. Bone-jarring collisions are not allowed. Those who collide with other players will be called out.
- h. Defensive players are not to completely block a base or home plate. Runners must have access to the bases.
- i. Steel cleats are not permitted. Molded, all-purpose shoes are allowed.
- j. If a pitcher walks a male batter by throwing three straight balls, the next female batter has the choice ,up until the time she steps into the batters box, of walking or batting
- k. There is a 2 home run limit per team, per game- over the fence only. After that, if a home run is hit, it will be an out.
- l. ***NEW*** In Co-Rec Softball; pitcher may take home plate away from catcher.

Section 4, POSTPONEMENTS:

- a. If it is necessary to postpone a game, the Adult League Supervisor must be consulted for approval, and then the opposing manager must approve and contact the Parks and Recreation Department to confirm the postponements.
- b. Postponements must be confirmed two (2) weeks prior to the date of the game. The Adult League Supervisor will set a date for make up. If this is not accomplished, the original team causing the cancellation will be given the loss. These postponements depend solely on whether or not an umpire is willing to come out and call the game.

Section 5, SPORTSMANSHIP:

- a. Any player, manager, or backer who causes, directly or indirectly, any attack upon the person of a game official or threatens an official with bodily harm by word or by act at any time will subject himself to indefinite suspension from all activities conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department. An official's written report shall describe such offenses. These acts would include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Bumping, pushing, or grabbing

an official. 2. Swinging or striking at an official 3. Throwing a ball or any object at an official. No contact necessary. 4. Physical restraint required keeping a player from attacking an official.

- b. Officials shall eject from the game any player or manager guilty of foul, obscene, profane, or abusive language. The official shall report to the Parks and Recreation Department such players or managers. These players guilty of this will be suspended from the league for at least two weeks depending on the severity. This kind of language is unacceptable in any sporting event and will not be tolerated!
- c. Scorers are officials and are thus entitled to the same respect and authority that the officials have.
- d. A player or manager ejected from a game will be suspended from the next two regularly scheduled league contests. More severe acts may result in an indefinite suspension.
- e. Any player, coach, manager, team franchise or team follower involved in any unsportsmanlike conduct which occurs before, during or after a game and is judged detrimental and/or degrading to the Parks and Recreation Department program will be suspended for two weeks and may be suspended indefinitely from all further participation in the program.
- f. A second or subsequent expulsion from a game during the season will result in the indefinite suspension from Parks and Recreation Department athletic programs.
- g. A player or coach will be indefinitely suspended from all Parks and Recreation Department athletic programs for participating in a game while under suspension. Suspended players or coaches are not permitted to attend any of the games during their suspension and are to stay off the grounds.
- h. Penalties incurred at the end of the season will be carried over into the next season.
- i. Any player ejected from a game will be required to leave the playing area and park grounds immediately.
- j. **Drinking of any intoxicants by team members, coaches, or followers during a contest or on recreation areas adjacent to that contest before, during, or after any set of games will bar that team from further participating in sports activities in any recreation areas under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department. Any ball player, coach, or team attendant seen with an alcoholic beverage by an umpire will be ejected from the game. Violators must leave the area immediately. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game.**

Section 6, SPORTSMANSHIP RATING:

At the end of each league contest, the umpire and league manager will give a sportsmanship rating to the team. Actions of players will affect sportsmanship rating of individual teams. Teams must average a "B" (3.0) or higher to be eligible for playoffs. The ratings are given as follows:

"A" (4.0) Excellent conduct and sportsmanship. General fair play and spirit of good sportsmanship. Follow code of conduct well.

"B" (3.0) Good conduct and sportsmanship. Objections to judgment calls. Generally follow code of conduct with some violations.

"C" (2.0) Fair conduct and sportsmanship. Profanity or abusive arguments with officials or opposite team. Uncooperative behavior. Lack of sportsmanship spirit. Frequent violations of code of conduct.

"D" (1.0) Poor sportsmanship and conduct. Excessive arguments with officials or opposing team. Ejection of any player for unsportsmanlike conduct will result in a grade no higher than a "D". General disregard for the code of conduct.

"E" (0.0) Ejection of a player or more than one player on a team. Threat of attack or attack of an official, player, spectator, or coach. Use of alcohol or drugs by players or spectators on Park grounds.

Section 7, PROTESTS:

- a. Protests can be made following the procedure listed in the ASA rulebook.
- b. Protests can only be made on ineligible players. A \$25.00 processing deposit must accompany the protests of an ineligible player and the money shall be returned if the protest is allowed. This protest must be turned into the department by 12:00 NOON the next business day following the game.
- c. Protests of an ineligible player will be resolved by the Recreation Supervisor on the basis of records on file at the Parks and Recreation Department. In the case that the ineligibility of a player is sustained, all games in which that player participated will be forfeited to the opponents by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- d. Any umpire's decision is final! No player, manager, coach, substitute, or follower shall abusively or continually object to such a judgment. Offenders will be removed from the game and suspended from the next two-scheduled league contests.

Section 8: All other rules not covered herein will be governed by the Amateur Softball Association's current rulebook.

Section 9: RAINOUTS (Captains Only!): *NEW*

If you suspect a rainout, call the Sport/Weather Hotline, at 342-4256 no sooner than 3 p.m. weekdays and 1 p.m. on weekends. You can check online at <http://www.gahanna.gov/government/parks/adultsports/> to see if games are cancelled. If no message is given that the games have not been rained out, it is your team's responsibility to attend the game. If conditions worsen, it will be the judgment of the umpire and Adult League Supervisor whether or not to call the games. Games that are called or suspended due to weather conditions or anything else will be picked up exactly where they left off! If a game is cancelled, Please continue with the schedule. We will make an attempt to make-up every game that is rained out; however, if there are rainouts that will conflict with another season, or if the season is just not possible to finish, games will be cancelled.

TEXAS SHOOT-OUT LEAGUE

All league rules will apply with some minor exceptions!

- The batter will be given one pitch!
- If a male batter walks, he will be given second base and the female batter must bat.
- The batting order must start with a female and continue female/male until all females have batted.
- There will be a 45-minute time limit on all games. After the 45 minutes the game will be considered complete. It doesn't matter if you're in the 2nd inning or the 7th inning.
- There will be a 10 run rule after 5 innings.
- Your forfeit time will be your game time. There is no grace period!

FOR ALL TOURNAMENT GAMES

- There will be no time limit on the games.
- All games will be played 7 innings.
- The 10 run rule after 5 innings will still be in affect with the addition of a 15 run rule after 3 innings.
- Any extra inning games become Texas Shootout format.